(c) what steps have been taken by Government so far on its own and also internationally to get the same vacated?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO): (a) The area of the Indian State of Jammu and Kashmir under the illegal occupation Pakistan since 1947-48 is approximately 30,200 sq. miles (78,218 sq. kms.)

(b) The population is estimated at 2.55 million.

(c) Government have on numerous occassions through the years tried to have this matter resolved, including through discussions with Pakistan in 1951,1953, 1955, 1960 and 1962-63. Efforts for a settlement were also made at Tashkent in 1966 and at Simla in 1972.

Government are committed to the Simla Agreement under which all differences with Pakistan are to be resolved peacefully through bilateral negotiations.

Right of fishing under Indo-Sri Lanka Agreement

3278. SHRI S. MADHAVAN: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the then External Affairs Minister, while laying the Indo-Sri Lankan Agreement of 1974 on the Table of the House on 23rd July, 1974 had stated "that in concluding the 1974 Agreement the rights of fishing, pilgrimage and navigation which India and Sri Lanka have enjoyed in the past have been fully safeguarded for the future and the fishermen were free to fish even round about Kachchativu;"

(b) whether the traditional rights of fishing of Indian fishermen was taken away under 1976 Agreement; and;

(c) if so, whether Government propose to give wide publicity to terms of agreement warning Indian fishermen that they should not fish around Kachchativu after 1976 Agreement?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO): (a) to (C) The maritime boundary between Indian and Sri Lanka was demarcated over its entire length by the Agreements of 1974 and 1976. The External Affairs Minister while laying the Agreement of 1974 on the Table of the House on 23 July, 1974 stated *inter alia* that "in concluding this Agreement, the rights of fishing, pilgrimage and of navigation which both sides have enjoyed in the past have been fully safeguarded for the future". While laying the Agreement of 1974 on the Table of the house on 24 March, 1976, he stated *inter alia*, that "the two countries shall exercise full sovereignty and absolute jurisdiction on their side of the maritime boundary, Both countries have agreed that after he determination of the maritime boundary, fising vessels and fishermen of one counry shall not engage in fishing in the waters of the other" According to these Agreements, the island of Kachchativu lies on the Sri Lanka side of the International Boundary Line. The Agreements fully safeguard the traditional rights of our fishermen which include the right of access to Kachchativu for resting, drying of nets and for attending the annual St. Antony's festival, when it is held. The Agreemets have been given wide publicity by Government.

Setting up of sponge iron plant by M/s Prakash Industries

3279. SHRI ASHOK NATH VERMA: Will the Minister of LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) what is the percentage stake of share capital in M/s. Prakash Industries Limited, 5, Rajindra Place, New Delhi held by All India Financial Institutions, by banks, mutual funds,